Numb. 223

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

For when upon their ungot Heirs,
Th' Entail themſelves and all that's theirs,
What blinder Bargain e'er was driv'n,
Or Wager laid at Six and Seven,
To paſs themſelves away, and turn
Their Children's Tenants e'er they're born? Hudibras.

From *Saturday* September 9. to *Tueſday* September 12. 1710.

From my own Apartment, September 11.

I HAVE been very much ſolicited by *Clarinda*, *Flavia*, and *Lyſetta*, to reaſſume my Diſcourſe concerning the Methods of diſpoſing honourably the unmarried Part of the World, and taking off thoſe Bars to it, Jointures and Settlements, which are not only the greateſt Impediments towards entring into that State, but alſo the frequent Cauſes of Diſtruſt and Animoſity in it after it is conſummated. I have with very much Attention conſidered this Caſe; and among all the Obſervations that I have made through a long Courſe of Years, I have thought the Coldneſs of Wives to their Husbands, as well as Diſreſpect from Children to Parents, to ariſe from this one Source. This Trade for Minds and Bodies in the Lump, without Regard to either, but as they are accompanied with ſuch Sums of Money, and ſuch Parcels of Land, cannot but produce a Commerce between the Parties concerned, ſuitable to the mean Motives upon which they at firſt came together. I have heretofore given an Account, that this Method of making Settlements was firſt invented by a griping Lawyer, who made Uſe of the covetous Tempers of the Parents of each Side to force Two young People into theſe vile Meaſures of Diffidence, for no other End but to increaſe the Skins of Parchment, by which they were put into each other's Poſſeſſion, out of each other's Power. The Law of our Country has given an ample and generous Proviſion for the Wife, even the Third of the Husband's Eſtate, and left to her good Humour and his Gratitude the Expectation of further Proviſion; but the fantaſtical Method of going further, with Relation to their Heirs, has a Foundation in nothing but Pride and Folly. For as all Men with their Children as like themſelves, and as much better as they can poſſibly, it ſeems monſtrous that we ſhould give out of our ſelves the Opportunities of rewarding and diſcouraging them according to their Deſerts. This wiſe Inſtitution has no more Senſe in it, than if a Man ſhould begin a Deed with, "Whereas no Man living knows how long he ſhall continue to be a 'reaſonable Creature, or an honeſt Man: And 'whereas I *B.* am going to enter in the State of 'Matrimony with Mrs. *D.* therefore I ſhall from 'henceforth make it indifferent to me whether from 'this Time forward I ſhall be a Fool or a Knave; 'and therefore in full and perfect Health of Body, 'and as ſound Mind, not knowing which of my 'Children will prove better or worſe, I give to 'my Firſt-born, be he perverſe, ungrateful, impious, or cruel, the Lump and Bulk of my 'Eſtate, and leave One Years Purchaſe only to 'each of my younger Children, whether they ſhall 'be brave or beautiful, modeſt or honourable, from 'the Time of the Date hereof, wherein I reſign 'my Senſes, and hereby promiſe to employ my 'Judgment no further in the Diſtribution of my 'Worldly Goods from the Day of the Date here'of; hereby further confeſſing and covenanting, 'that I am from henceforth married, and dead in 'Law.

There is no Man that is converſant in modern Settlements but knows this is an exact Tranſlation of what is inſerted in theſe Inſtruments. Men's Paſſions could only make them ſubmit to ſuch Terms; and therefore all unreaſonable Bargains in Marriage ought to be ſet aſide, as well as Deeds extorted from Men under Force or in Priſon, who are altogether as much Maſters of their Actions, as he that is poſſeſſed with a violent Paſſion.

How ſtrangely Men are ſometimes partial to themſelves, appears by the Rapine of him that has a Daughter's Beauty under his Direction. He will make no Scruple of uſing it to force from her Lover as much of his Eſtate as is worth 10000 *l.* and at the ſame Time, as a Juſtice on the Bench, will ſpare no Pains to get a Man hanged that has taken but a Horſe from him.

It is to be hoped, the Legiſlature will in due Time take this kind of Robbery into Conſideration, and not ſuffer Men to prey upon each other, when they are about making the moſt ſolemn League, and entring into the ſtricteſt Bonds. The only ſure Remedy is to fix a certain Rate on every Woman's Fortune; one Price for that of a Maid, and another for a Widow: For it is of infinite Advantage, that there ſhould be no Frauds or Uncertainties in the Sale of our Women.

If any Man ſhould exceed the ſettled Rate, he ought to be at Liberty, after 7 Years are over, by which Time his Love may be ſuppoſed to abate a little, if it is not founded upon Reaſon, to renounce the Bargain, and be freed from the Settlement upon reſtoring the Portion; as a Youth married under Fourteen Years old may be off if he pleaſes when he comes to that Age, and as a Man is diſcharged from all Bargains but that of Marriage made when he is under Twenty one.

It grieves me when I conſider, that theſe Reſtraints upon Matrimony take away the Advantage we ſhould otherwiſe have over other Countries, which are ſunk much by thoſe great Checks upon Propagation, the Convents. It is thought chiefly owing to theſe that *Italy* and *Spain* want above half their Complement of People. Were the Price of Wives always fixed and ſettled, it would contribute to filling the Nation more than all the Encouragements than can poſſibly be given to Foreigners to tranſplant themſelves hither.

I there-

I therefore as Cenſor of *Britain*, till a Law is made, will lay down Rules, which ſhall be obſerved with Penalty of degrading all that break them into Pretty Fellows, Smarts, Squibs, Hunting-Horns, Drums, and Bagpipes.

The Females that are guilty of breaking my Orders, I ſhall reſpectively pronounce to be Kits, Hornpipes, Dulcimers, and Kettle-Drums. Such Widows as wear the Spoils of one Husband, I will bury, if they attempt to rob another.

I ordain, That no Woman ever demand One Shilling to be paid after her Husband's Death, more than the very Sum ſhe brings him, or an Equivalent for it in Land.

That no Settlement be made in which the Man ſettles on his Children more than the Reverſion of the Jointure, or the Value of it in Money; ſo that at his Death he may in the Whole be bound to pay his Family but Double to what he has received. I would have the eldeſt, as well as the reſt, have his Proviſion out of this.

When Men are not able to come up to thoſe Settlements I have propoſed, I would have them receive ſo much of the Portion only as they can come up to, and the reſt to go to the Woman by Way of Pin-Money, or ſeparate Maintenance. In this, I think, I determined equally between the Two Sexes.

If any Lawyer varies from theſe Rules, or is above Two Days in drawing a Marriage Settlement, or uſes more Words in it than one Skin of Parchment will contain, or takes above Five Pound for drawing it, I would have him thrown over the Bar.

Were theſe Rules obſerved, a Woman with a ſmall Fortune and a great deal of Worth would be ſure to marry according to her Deſerts, if the Man's Eſtate were to be leſs incumbered, in Proportion as her Fortune is leſs than he might have with others.

A Man of a great deal of Merit, and not much Eſtate, might be choſen for his Worth, becauſe it would not be difficult for him to make a Settlement.

The Man that loves a Woman beſt, would not loſe her for not being able to bid ſo much as another, or for not complying with an extravagant Demand.

A fine Woman would no more be ſet up to Auction as ſhe is now. When a Man puts in for her, her Friends or her ſelf take Care to publiſh it; and the Man that was the firſt Bidder is made no other Uſe of but to raiſe the Price. He that loves her, will continue in waiting as long as ſhe pleaſes, (if her Fortune be thought equal to his) and under Pretence of ſome Failure in the Rent-Roll, or Difficulties in drawing the Settlement, he is put off till a better Bargain is made with another.

All the reſt of the Sex that are not rich or beautiful to the higheſt Degree, are plainly Gainers, and would be married ſo faſt, that the leaſt Charming of them would ſoon grow Beauties to the Batchelors.

Widows might be eaſily married, if they would not, as they do now, ſet up for diſcreet, only by being mercenary.

The making Matrimony cheap and eaſie, would be the greateſt Diſcouragement to Vice. The limiting the Expence of Children would not make Men ill inclined, or afraid of having them in a regular Way; and the Men of Merit would not live unmarried, as they often do now, becauſe the Goodneſs of a Wife cannot be inſured to 'em; but the Loſs of an Eſtate is certain, and a Man would never have the Affliction of a worthleſs Heir added to that of a bad Wife.

I am the more ſerious, large and particular, on this Subject, becauſe my Lucubrations deſigned for the Encouragement of Virtue cannot have the deſired Succeſs, as long as this Incumbrance of Settlements continues upon Matrimony.

Errata *in the laſt Tatler*: *In the laſt Line of the firſt Column, dele* or have a Mind to take their Reſt, *Col.* 2. *Line* 3. *for* very ancient Extraction, *read* great Antiquity. *Line* 17. *for* Way, *r.* Method. *Line* 27. *for* Nocturnal, *r.* Midnight. *Col.* 3. *L.* 8. *for* their, *r.* his.

Advertiſements.

*** There is now to be delivered to Subſcribers, by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew near Stationers-Hall, The Second Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; in Octavo, on a fine Royal and Medium Papers.

*** There being juſt finiſh'd, The Antiquities of St. Peter's, or the Abbey-Church of Weſtminſter, containing all the Inſcriptions and Epitaphs upon the Tombs, Monuments and Graveſtones, with an Account of the moſt eminent Perſonages, and their Coats of Arms truly emblazoned, which renders this the moſt perfect Book of Heraldry yet extant; ſome one or other of moſt Families in England of any Note being interred in this Cathedral: And for the further adorning and compleating this Work, the Publication will be deferred one Month from the Date hereof; that if any Perſons, whoſe Relations have Monuments erected in this Church, will be pleaſed to ſubſcribe Two Guinea's, they ſhall have ſuch Monuments curiouſly engraven by the beſt Hands, and a Book neatly bound and gilt preſented to each Subſcriber, ſeveral Perſons of Quality having already ſubſcribed. Thoſe Plates that are engraven, as likewiſe the Book, may be ſeen at J. Pemberton's at the Buck and Sun againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleetſtreet, by whom Subſcriptions are taken in. N. B. No Subſcriptions will be taken in after the Time above mention'd

Morning Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoes (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

THis is to inform all Lovers of Art, that there are Three fine Original Pictures of Octava Venus, which are juſt come from Abroad; and the Gentleman that owns them is obliged to go Abroad again in Ten Days at fartheſt; and theſe Pictures are obliged to be ſold before that Time, at reaſonable Rates. They are to be ſeen at Mrs. Savage's, over-againſt the Roſe and Crown in Long-acre, where conſtant Attendance is given.

A Faſhionable Coach, and a Four-wheel'd Chaiſe, both new, to be ſold a great Pennyworth, at the Queen's Arms Inn in Crouched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, to Morrow, the 13th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 5 in the Afternoon, 23 Jars of very fine and right Lucca Oil, an entire Parcel, imported from Leghorn, and lately landed, now under a Barber's Shop the Corner of St. Martin's-lane in Cannon-ſtreet; 26 Pipes, Hhds. and Quarter Casks, of new White Malmſey and Red Maderas Wines, neat, and lately landed, lying in the Alley on Cox-Key between Billingſgate and London-Bridge; 14 Pipes of very good Red Wine fit for Draught, and 6 Buts of new Bene-Carles, in a Cellar near the Horſe and Trumpet in Crouched-Friars. Alſo Hhds. of French White, White and Red Lisbon Wine, Rheniſh, Sherry, Flasks of Florence, Bottles of Canary, Cooper's Tools, &c. in a Cellar over againſt the Tun Alehouſe in Buttolph-Alley, between Buttolph-lane and Love-lane. All to be ſeen this Day from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and to Morrow till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Scething-lane, between Tower-ſtreet and Crouched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Thurſday next the 14th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 6 in the Afternoon, 41 Buts and 7 Hhds of new excellent Barcelona Wines, very deep, bright and ſtrong; near, the entire Cargo of the St. Peter of Dublin, lying in a Ground Ware-houſe in the Alley on Cox-Key, between London-bridge and Billingſgate. To be ſeen this Day and to Morrow, from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all Thurſday till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Scething-Lane, between Tower-ſtreet and Crouched-Fryars.

MR. Stockton's Sale of Goods, at the Bell in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, being very far advanced, and intended to be drawn before Michaelmas, in York-Buildings, by Pariſh-Boys, &c. it is deſired, that thoſe Gentlemen and Ladies who are willing to adventure, would be expeditious in taking off the remaining Tickets, at 2 s. each, the higheſt Prize 100 l. and but 12 Blanks to a Prize. Tickets may be had likewiſe at Mr. Amſon's at the Gold Ring at the Corner of Salisbury-Court in Fleetſtreet; and at Mrs. Mariot's, a Milliner, in New-ſtreet. Note, this is (as may eaſily be proved) the faireſt and moſt advantagious Propoſal of this kind ever publiſh'd.

MR. Guthridge's Twelvepenny Sale of Goods, over againſt Norfolk-ſtreet in the Strand, that is all Prizes, is to be drawn at his Houſe, where every one concerned may draw themſelves: It's to begin this Day, being the 12th Inſtant, having a few Tickets to diſpoſe of. The Goods are, a Silver Tankard, a Clock and Caſe, 2 Silver Watches, 300 Lots of Silver Tea-Spoons and Salt-Spoons, and other Goods. The Sixpenny Sale of all Prizes continues at the Place above-named.

THE Tickets for Mrs. Sarah Brown's Sale of Kid-Gloves being not quite diſpos'd of, the drawing of it will be deferred till Monday the firſt of October, and no longer. Tickets are to be had, at 3 d. per Ticket, at Mrs. Spicer's, Milliner, at the Anchor over againſt the Caſtle Tavern, Fleetſtreet; of Mrs. Sarah Brown at the Three Foxes in St. Clement's-lane, Lombard-ſtreet; and of Mr. Lillie at the Swan in Gracechurch-ſtreet, where 'tis to be drawn.